

RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR 1960.



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RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Chairman : E. H. C. Jones.

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T. Edgley, C. W. Green, H. W. Haddon, G. S. O. Jennings,
A. E. Papworth, A. J. Robinson, S. Senior.

STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G. O. MARCH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid-1960)	6,010
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1960	1,886
Rateable Value	£49,655
Value of Penny Rate	£193

TO THE RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

The District is almost entirely devoted to agriculture, the town itself acting as a centre for the outlying areas, the chief of these being Ramsey St. Marys, Mereside, Forty Foot, and the Heights. The agricultural land consists largely of fens which were reclaimed several hundred years ago. This land is extremely flat, and is drained by dykes, there being several pumping stations in the area.

The Registrar General estimates the population to be 6,010 which is again an increase of 90 over the previous year.

During the year 124 babies were born in the area, giving a birth rate of 20.6 per 1,000 which is above the national average (17.1). A larger number of persons (72) died during the year than is usual, as against an average of 54 during the previous five years. This gives an adjusted death rate of 13.3 per 1,000 which is above the national average (11.5), an exception for Ramsey. As a matter of interest the average age at death was 68.9 years.

There were no infectious diseases during the first half of the year, but an epidemic of Measles began in November and continued into 1961. During the Autumn there were a number of cases of mild Gastro-enteritis, especially in the Forty Foot Bridge area, but also in the Town. These cases continue to occur from time to time, but it is only in exceptional cases that an organism can be isolated. It is hoped that they will diminish as a result of the new sewerage system which is now well on the way to completion in the Town. This will enable better standards of hygiene to be attained. As a next step I should particularly recommend that a sewerage scheme be put in hand for at least the Forty Foot Bridge and Mereside areas.

The Caravan Sites and Development Act, 1960, came into operation during the year. Several meetings took place between the District Officers and the County Planning Officer and his staff, and standards were put before and approved by the Council. This Act should prove of considerable help in raising the standard of Caravan sites throughout the Country.

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations also came into operation, and as a result the three slaughterhouses previously on the register all closed down, and a new fully equipped and modern abattoir was opened by private enterprise.

I gratefully acknowledge the help given to me throughout the year by the Members of the Council, their Officers and Staff.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births

Number	...	...	...	...	...	124
Rate per 1,000 population	20.6

Illegitimate Live births per cent of total live births	...	4.8
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Still-births

Number	2
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	1.59

Total live and still-births	126
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Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	2
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Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	16.1
Legitimate ,, ,, ,, legitimate live births	...	16.9
Illegitimate,, ,, ,, illegitimate ,, ,,	...	Nil

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	Nil
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Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	Nil
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Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under
1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 15.9

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths Nil

Rate per 1,000 live and still births Nil

Death Rate per 1,000 population 12

Infant Deaths 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960

Actual No. of Deaths	3	3	3	2	4	2
Rates all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	28.6	26.1	28.8	19.8	36.7	16.1

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 12

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... Nil

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales

	Per 1000 Population.				Per 1000 live births	Per 1000 total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Ramsey U. D.	20.6	20.6	12	13.3	16.1	1.6
England & Wales		17.1		11.5	21.7	19.7

Comparability Factor Births 1.00

Comparability Factor Deaths 1.11

The comparability factors are figures by which the crude birth and death rates need to be multiplied by so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country. The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning amongst other things the age and sex structure of the population.

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

Causes of Death.						M.	F.	Total
						41	31	72
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	15	3	18
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	8	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	-	3	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	...	...	-	-	-

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

Housing :

Limited action has been taken for Closing Orders and Demolition Orders, a comprehensive programme of Slum Clearance still cannot be proceeded with owing to the lack of re-housing accommodation.

There is no known statutory overcrowding, although there are cases where families are living in overcrowded conditions.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	456
Number of inspections made for the purpose	466
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..	10
Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	46

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers..	22
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Action under Statutory Powers :

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made (Housing Act, 1936, Section 11) ..	1
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
Number of families displaced	1
Number of houses demolished by agreement	4

New Housing :

There were 111 active applicants on the list for Council houses at the end of the year, 13 families having been found accommodation.

Two two-bedroom houses were completed and occupied and a further four in the course of erection.

Three sites have now been purchased and it is planned to build approximately 58 houses.

The Council have a total of 530 houses and bungalows, and there are 20 huts at the Wood Lane Camp occupied for temporary housing.

There were 33 houses erected by private enterprise.

Improvement Grants :

The Council approved 7 applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants and 17 applications for Standard Improvement Grants.

Works of improvement on 10 houses were carried out.

Nuisances :

Abated as a result of informal action	..	..	..	22
Analysis of complaints received :				
Premises .. .. .	..	..	..	3
Accumulation of Refuse	..	..	..	1
Drains .. .. .	..	..	..	18
Disinfestation .. .. .	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	1
				<hr/>
				24
				<hr/>

Inspections and Visits :

Highways .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	154
Water Supply .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	561
Housing Maintenance	..	..	..	..	..	..	890
New Buildings .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	178
Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	463
Drain Tests .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	113
Housing Act .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Meat Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	337
Food and Drugs Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Factory Acts .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Sewers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Cemetery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	149
Mortuary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
Playing Fields .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Petrol Storage .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
							<hr/>
							3,229
							<hr/>

Closets :

Number of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s	..	1,009
Number of houses at the end of the year with Pail Closets..	872	
Number of houses at the end of the year with Privy Vaults..	5	
Number of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses	35	
Number of W.C.'s newly constructed for old property	..	10

Water Supply :

Samples from the water supply from Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board are taken at regular intervals and forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Number of water samples taken from main supply	..	20
Number of satisfactory water samples	.. ..	19
Number of unsatisfactory water samples	.. ..	1*

* Subsequent sample proved satisfactory.

The average daily consumption was 126,500 gallons, representing 23 gallons per head per day. It was necessary during the summer to impose restrictions on the use of water for gardens, washing vehicles, etc.

Poor pressure is still being experienced in the higher parts of the district and difficulty is had in maintaining an adequate supply during peak demands in dry weather.

The Council have approved a scheme for the erection of a new water tower at Biggin Lane, Ramsey, which will increase the storage capacity and should solve the problem of low pressure.

No. of houses with mains supply	.. ..	1,762
Population on mains supply (Est.)	.. ..	5,529
No. of houses served by standpipe	.. ..	105
Population served by standpipe (Est.)	.. ..	330
No. of houses without mains water supply	.. ..	124
Population without mains water supply (Est.)	.. ..	391

Meat and Food Inspection :

A new abattoir has been erected and came into use in December, and I think that the owners, Messrs. E. King & Son, should be congratulated on this enterprise. The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries accepted the Council's report pursuant to the Slaughterhouses Act 1958, and made the 1st January, 1961 as the appointed day. The licences for the 2 existing slaughterhouses expired and the owners have closed them by agreement.

The following table shows the results of the meat inspection service :—

Number of slaughterhouses on register	..	..	..	1
Number of visits for meat inspection	..	..	..	337

Carcases Inspected and Condemned :

	<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number inspected	.. 116	20	17	239	3636
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcases condemned	.. .. —	1	—	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	.. .. 14	1	—	—	26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	.. 12%	10%	—	—	.8%
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcases condemned —	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	.. .. —	—	—	—	9
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis	.. .. —	—	—	—	.3%
Total weight of meat condemned	..	..	..	1,126 lbs.	
Total weight of other food condemned	..	..	..	59 lbs.	
Cysticercosis was not found during the year.					

Food premises :

- (i) The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as under :—

Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	10
Grocers and General Stores	..	..	..	..	..	19
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	7
Bakers	..	..	..	..	..	6
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	3
Fish Premises	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cafes, Restaurants, Hotels	..	..	..	..	..	4
					—	
Total	..					53

- (ii) Number of Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act 25
- (iii) Number of inspections of registered food premises .. 6
- (iv) There has not been a food hygiene education course during the year. Proprietors are aware of the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations. They are at a disadvantage at present because of the unsatisfactory sewerage system, which is now being rectified.
- (v) Condemned food is buried at the tip.
- (vi) Usually small quantities of food are examined, and the lot condemned.
- (vii) There are no Ice Cream manufacturers in the area, it is all pre-packed.
- (viii) There have been no prosecutions under the Food Hygiene Regulations during the year.

Public Swimming Baths :

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

The new sewerage scheme for the Town area has progressed. The majority of the work on the laying of sewers and the construction of the works is completed, and an early start is to be made on the connecting of properties.

All the properties in the sewerage area have been visited and individual schemes worked out for the conversion of pail closets to W.C.'s and the connection of existing drains to the new sewer.

The number of septic tanks outside the town area is still increasing, and the time is rapidly approaching when the Council should consider sewerage schemes there.

The Council give a free emptying service, when necessary, 177 tanks being emptied this year.

Factories Act 1937 :

Total number of Factories (including Bakehouses) ..	..	25
Number of visits during the year .. .. .	..	4
Number of defects remedied .. .. .	..	NIL

Refuse Collection :

Refuse is collected by direct labour weekly in the Town Area and fortnightly in St. Marys, The Heights, Mereside and Forty Foot Bridge, disposal being by controlled tipping at Brick Kilns Farm.

The collection of night soil is carried out by Contractors twice weekly in the Town Area and weekly in the outside areas. Night soil is disposed of by composting, but this is proving increasingly difficult. We can at last see an end to this collecting system in the Town as it is estimated that all properties will have a connection to the new sewer by the Autumn of 1961.

Moveable Dwellings :

A survey of all sites was made and owners notified of the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. There were found to be 25 sites in the area, 22 of which were single caravans, and to date applications have been returned from all except 2, one of which is on Air Ministry property.

No licences were issued as approvals had not been received under the Town and Country Planning Act 1947.

Rodent Control :

A rodent control service is provided for private and business premises in the area under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The rodent operator inspected 313 properties, made 513 visits and carried out 70 treatments in cases of infestation.

General :

In conclusion I would express my appreciation of the interest and support of the Chairman, E. H. C. Jones, Esq., J.P., and Members of the Council, the guidance and advice of the Medical Officer of Health and the co-operation of the Council Staff.

G. O. MARCH,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1960.

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
High Street,
Old Fletton,
Phone : Peterborough 4027





